

INFORMATION PAPER

SAIS-IM-SACC

SUBJECT: Army Knowledge Online (AKO)

PURPOSE: To provide information on the Army Knowledge Online project.

1. Facts:

a. Army Knowledge Online is a key initiative in the transformation of the Institutional Army into a true knowledge and capabilities-based organization. AKO provides the Army web-based tools that allow soldiers to share knowledge and work more effectively. By facilitating knowledge sharing across the Army, AKO allows individuals to spend more time analyzing versus collecting information, thus assisting in the production of higher quality products, recommendations and decisions.

b. Army Knowledge Online is available both on the SIPRNet (<http://www.us.army.mil>) and SIPRNet (<http://www.us.army.smil.mil>). AKO-SIPRNET (AKO-S) is the SIPRNet corporate knowledge interface for Headquarters, Department of the Army. AKO-S integrates existing SIPRNet content with HQDA content in an easily understood layout, speeding information retrieval and organization. Designed to maximize the ease of input of information to the site, AKO-S serves both as an executive communications tool and an information repository for action officers. AKO-S leverages the inherent security of the SIPRNet, providing the needed level of information assurance for sensitive and classified information, while incorporating state-of-the-art technologies for Knowledge Management. AKO-S provides an integrated collaborative interface that provides “roles-based” access controls with access to domain searches, SIPRNet searches, weather, news, notional/joint intelligence, and a personalize knowledge template.

c. Army Knowledge Online – NIPRNet (AKO-N) currently supports over 54,000 registered users across the Army. All soldiers (Active duty, National Guard and Reserves), DA Civilians, and Army Retirees are eligible for an AKO account. AKO has already achieved its FY00 milestone of 50,000 users, and will scale to approximately 1 million users by FY05. AKO “Core Services” include:

(1) The Army Portal (<http://www.us.army.mil>), which offers a customizable, encrypted, personal Portal page for each soldier and DA Civilian. Accessible from any Internet connection, The Army Portal allows users to quickly find and receive the latest knowledge on subjects of their choosing. Portal users gain quick access to Army forms and regulations, installations, change-of-station information, the latest Army news, and AKO Knowledge Centers.

(2) Web-based email that provides a standardized, SSL-secured email capability for all soldiers and DA Civilians -- valid for the entire length of service and wherever the individual is assigned. A single email address provides continuity and allows soldiers and civilians to easily stay in touch with each other and the Army.

(3) A very powerful search engine focused exclusively on the .mil domain. The search engine currently indexes over 750,000 documents and will include over 1,000,000 documents in the near future; it can automatically sort documents by relevance or by date, and allows for either keyword or general category searches.

(4) Army White Pages that serve as an Army-wide locator service that instantly allows users to locate anyone with an AKO account. AKO users can input a first or last name and see contact information that includes email address, rank / grade, organization, and office phone number and mailing address. Soldiers and DA Civilians can instantly get in touch – the Army stays connected despite frequent deployments and high unit-level personnel turnovers.

d. In addition to the core services, AKO also supports several Knowledge Centers serving various communities. These include the PERSCOM Officer Career Management Knowledge Center, The Staff Officer's Knowledge Tool (in use at HQDA, ODCSOPS-FDJ and by the CSA Transformation Cell), and the Acquisition Knowledge Center supporting PEO C3S. To date, over 19,500 officers have used the PERSCOM Knowledge Center to submit paperless career preference statements; in October of 1999 the paperless CFD process won an IT Best Practice Award from the Industry Advisory Council. Soon an ITM Careers Knowledge Center will be available to support DA Civilian in the CP-34 career field.

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